

# ORANGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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March 7, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW 20024  
Washington, DC

**RE: Expression of Interest Rural Broadband Experiments Connect America Fund,  
WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers:

On behalf of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, I hereby express our interest to participate in the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the FCC Open Meeting on January 30, 2014.

Based on the information provided to date, Orange County, Virginia, is an eligible locality per the enclosed census tract map.

Orange County is currently developing plans and aligning funding sources to implement a new emergency communications system for use by our locality's first responders. A leading-edge element of this system will be to provide wireless broadband data service to first responders through a public-private partnership with a qualified telecommunications company. Preliminary conceptual business models include a potential for the partner company to market and sell wireless broadband service in underserved areas using the county's vertical assets, backhaul infrastructure, and other enhancements the county may bring forward to lower barriers to enter the county's underserved market.

It should be noted that providing wireless broadband service in underserved areas of the county will meet a high priority economic development goal of the Board of Supervisors. Essentially, the Board of Supervisors views county-wide broadband availability as an evolving core local government service particularly in the areas of public safety and economic development to the community. However, the service must rely upon a private sector partner who can efficiently deploy, maintain, and improve this broadband service.

The county's challenging geography coupled with a functionally obsolete public safety communications system are giving rise to the critical need to deploy a practical voice and broadband solution for our public safety personnel. Currently, county staff is working with a qualified consultant to determine how to best address the design and deployment of a robust public safety communication system and to creatively develop a public-private partnership to bring wireless broadband services to our first responders and as a commercial venture to our residents, businesses, and anchor institutions in underserved areas.

In light of the foregoing, I respectfully request the Federal Communications Commission consider our county's needs and plans when making decisions regarding the Rural Broadband Trials and any future initiatives related to the Connect America Fund.

Finally, the Orange County Board of Supervisors and staff commend the Federal Communications Commission for taking this bold step to give rural communities like ours a chance to grow and benefit in a world where robust broadband is ubiquitously available to everyone at an affordable cost. Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Bryan David', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Bryan David  
Interim County Administrator

Enclosures (1)

cc: Orange County Board of Supervisors